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Letter to Hamilton, Hancock Co., 1891-03-03

Joseph Peace Hazard

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(Copy.)

I received a long notice of the publication of the following:

I had seen him of "The Union of the latter center" I received it a few days ago

The Banshee.

Hamilton, Hancock Co. Illinois, March 3^d, 1891.

Mr. Joseph T. Harard,
Peacedale, Rhode Island.

My Dear Sir.

In the Banner of Light of Nov 1st, I happened to notice when you speak of the Banshee and of persons who hear the Banshee in Ireland are Members of families who live in the same dwelling from generation to generation. This I learned from my friend Sam Joseph, who told me he had often heard and seen, also he, when a relation of his was about to die,

After reading your account of the Banshee in The Banner [of Light, of Boston Mass.] I met Mr. Hurley (an Irishman and a citizen of this place). I asked him if he ever heard the Banshee cry? — Oh yes, in the Old Country, I often heard it.

In your own home, Mr. Hurley? Oh no, I never heard it at my own house. I was heard among some very old families of Ireland. The Lynchers, Stuarts, and, some others he named.

Where did you hear it, Mr. Hurley? I often heard it at the Ford of a small River when, at certain times of the year, it often comes and people hear it Cry. I have heard it often at this place.

The Banshee has a great care for those old families, say, Mr. H. and persons who have spoken of it have often been slapped on the face by some invisible hand.

Mr. H.'s mind is not altogether clear on the origin or source of the Banshee, but I have no doubt he has heard it call. He said he could not imitate the voice nor sound of the Banshee.

He seems to think it is a young and handsome Lady who was taken from Earthly life in some sad manner — without the benefit of the church or Priest, and is doing Penance by looking out for her friends in Earthly life, etc. etc.

Evidently, his mind is not altogether clear on this Subject.

Rev. Talmadge says that he never yet has heard an audible voice from the Spirit World!! I am quite inferior to the Rev. Gentleman in many respects, but in this respect, I have been more highly favored than he. I have often heard my own name spoken by some invisible presence.

In my boyhood I have often been startled to hear my name called, and loud enough for me to hear it distinctly. These voices seemed to come from one heart.

When I would be standing out in the open space away from building or tree. And now, since I have begun I may as well say further, that since reaching manhood, I have heard a whole sentence, and as for that